

## **Sunset Review of the BNE**

The Sunset Commission staff conducted meetings with BNE staff on Thursday and Friday, March 30-31, 2006 at our offices.

### **Sunset staff attending:**

Joey Longley, Director  
Joe Walraven, Project Supervisor  
Meredith Whitten, Project Manager  
Sarah Kirkle  
Faye Rencher

### **BNE Staff attending:**

Kathy Thomas  
Mark Majek  
Tony Diggs  
Mary Beth Thomas  
Patricia Vianes-Cabrera

### **Subject of Initial Meetings with Sunset Staff**

On Thursday, the Sunset staff presented an overview of the process. They will be evaluating our agency over the next 6 months. Meetings will be conducted with key staff and we will be asked to provide data and other information frequently over this time period. In September, they will publish a report that we will have opportunity to respond to before it is final. In November, there will be a public hearing on the report where the Commission staff will present their report, we will respond, and members of the public will have a chance to testify. When we present, we can speak about any testimony that we anticipate that the public might offer. Staff indicated that Board members should attend this hearing. Our tentative dates are November 14-15, 2006. E&D hearings are scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> but staff have rescheduled the date to Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Sunset Commission will meet on December 12-13, 2006 to make their decision about the BNE. Board members are not required to be at this meeting. The 80th Legislative session will begin in January and a Sunset bill will be drafted for the BNE. It is traditional for one of the Commission members to sponsor each agency bill.

On Friday, I presented an overview of the agency followed by departmental overviews by Mark (Operations), Mary Beth Thomas (Nursing), Tony Diggs (Enforcement), and Dusty Johnston (Legal). There will be additional meetings over the next two weeks to "dig deeper" into the agency's activities. Notice of the review and opportunity to give input is posted on the BNE website at: <http://www.bne.state.tx.us/news-sunset.htm>

**The Sunset Commission is Composed of 12 members**

5 members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, 5 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 2 members of the public, one each appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

<b>Senate Members</b>	<b>House Members</b>
Senator Kim Brimer, Chair Fort Worth 2005-2009	Representative Vicki Truitt, Vice Chair Keller 2003-2007
Senator Robert Deuell, M.D. Greenville 2005-2009	Representative Byron Cook Corsicana 2005-2007
Senator Craig Estes Wichita Falls 2005-2009	Representative Dan Flynn Van 2005-2009
Senator Eliot Shapleigh El Paso 2003-2007	Representative Ruth Jones McClendon San Antonio 2005-2009
Senator John Whitmire Houston 2003-2007	Representative Lois Kolkhorst Brenham 2005-2009
Howard Wolf, Public Member Austin	Ike Sugg, Public Member San Angelo

#### **Tentative Review Timeline**

Review Work Conducted	April to September 2006
Staff Report Published	September 2006
Public Hearing	November 14-15, 2006
Commission Decisions	December 12-13, 2006
80 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session	January to May 2007